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of Sainclair and Albina was celebrated three days before the first representation of the opera. On the arrival of this grand day, Sainclair, his youthful wife and the Count de Montclair went to the box, which the authors had appointed for them. Sainclair had some unpleasant forebodings, which the event but too well justified. The words were unanimously considered ridiculous, and the music detestable: there was the most pitiless hooting and hissing, which could not have proceeded merely from envy; the work was not suffered to be concluded. This event had a most melancholy influence on Versillac and Clementina through the remainder of their lives. They were both victims, not of the arts, but of the most foolish pretensions, and an unbridled desire of celebrity. After so many brilliant hopes, they were obliged to return to their province with the overwhelming disgrace of a complete, indisputable fall. Vexation and chagrin entirely overturned their union: they had associated for glory only, and would not mutually share the humiliation of their reverse, each strove to throw the blame on the other. Clementina maintained, that the words had caused the ruin of her music; Versillac declared, that with a good composer his words would have been raised to the skies. The Baron, discontented at the loss of his learned preliminary discourse, loudly took his daughter's part. Thus this unhappy conjugal work became a frightful subject of contention. Things came to such a height, that they were obliged to have recourse to the most melancholy extremes; they separated, never to join again.

Albina's lot was far different: she knew how to place her glory on those things only, which depended on her own will, conduct, and feelings, public esteem, the union of her family, and the tenderness of her husband. She tasted, to the end of her life, all the happiness, which can result from a legitimate attachment, reason, peace, and the esteem of the world; and Sainclair, after having been, in his early youth, the victim of the talents, and arts, became the happiest of husbands and fathers.

To a Proprietor of the Belfast Magazine.

IN reading your Magazine for February last, my attention was particularly engaged by the title of a paper signed S.E.

The subject I conceived a most useful one, as however valuable the acquisition of knowledge may be, there are not a few who consider it dear bought, from the contamination of morals which is often produced, by an unguarded and youthful mind coming into contact with vice clad in every alluring garb, which too frequently occurs where large numbers meet for education. The general tenor of the paper I refer to is good, and it might have passed me unnoticed, had not a paragraph, alluding to a youthful Bard made me regret that some friend was not at your elbow while you nodded in your elbow chair; for sure I am that if you had been awake, such an ill-natured piece of sarcasm could never have defied the pages of your Magazine; you may not be acquainted with the person there alluded to, but hundreds could not mistake it, and many, no doubt, are so wanting in the feelings of benevolence as to turn that paragraph into a weapon of ridicule sufficiently sharp to wound the rising merits of a young man whose future prospects depend altogether at present on public opinion. The profits from a small volume of poems, published some time ago, has assisted the Bard to enter himself at college, and I hear that he has published another selection which the readers of his former volume will see with pleasure. In the picturing of simple scenes and manners, the Bard of Erin excels many whose names are higher on the list of fame, and the moral tendency of his pieces make them acceptable, as they may exclude some of those contemptible and licentious ballads, which owing to the high price of paper are the only literary productions within the reach of the lower orders of society. But, sir, I am afraid my feelings have carried me too far; I only have room now to request, that personal vices, not personal defects, may i

future be those which your correspondents endeavour to reform, and that should any of them attempt to sully your pages by turning into ridicule any of the works of the Almighty, you will treat their productions with that contempt which they deserve. T.

Belfast April 12, 1810.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,
I OBSERVE in your last, queries relative to alkalies, which I think (part of them at least) may be easily answered.

1st. How bleachers may know if potash and barilla ash contain fixed air. This is easily proved by dropping a little vitriol (sulphuric acid) into a solution of them in water; if it effervesces, or, in other words, makes a hissing noise, with air rising to the surface, it certainly contains fixed air; it will be necessary however to dissolve the portion of alkali to be subjected to trial in boiling water, and kept during its solution in a state of ebullition, as it would be impossible to prepare it with cold water and the surface exposed to atmospheric air, without its acquiring a considerable portion of aerial acid.

2d. How to separate fixed air from the lees of the above ashes. Lime, fresh burned, either slacked or otherwise, will, by its superior affinity to fixed air, deprive them of it; the lime will all sink to the bottom, except a small portion which will be held in solution.

3d. If the lees of said ashes are

not freed from the fixed air they contain, how far using them in that state will retard their operation in the process of bleaching linen with them. To this I cannot speak with the same certainty; but, taking it for granted, that the use of alkali in bleaching is by its dissolving the vegetable and carbonaceous matters with which the fibres of the flax are covered, and, thereby preparing them for the application of oxygen, either from the atmospheric air, or oxymuriatic acid. In this point of view, alkali containing fixed air cannot be as efficacious; it being a well known fact to farmers, that the solution of vegetable and carbonaceous matter is greatly assisted by the addition of fresh burned lime, and but very little, if it be in a mild state, or impregnated with fixed air; in this respect alkalies are analogous. Soapboilers uniformly employ lime to render their lees active, as the alkali must necessarily part with its fixed air before it can unite with the oil.

But as there is a certain portion of lime remains in solution in the lees, can that be any objection to the bleacher? I wish some of your chemical Correspondents would take the trouble of informing us what injurious effect lime used in certain portions could have in bleaching; and, what would be the best manner of applying it with a view of lessening the consumption of alkali, seeing they have one common principle viz. their promoting the solution of vegetable and carbonaceous matter.

Banks of Bann.

L.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF MADAME ROLAND.

Continued from p. 201, No. XX.

“WHAT is life but an ocean, precarious as those,
Which surround this terraqueous ball?
What is man but a bark, often laden with woes;
What is death but the harbour of all?”

On our passage—to-day may be mild and serene,

And our loftiest canvass be shown,
While to-morrow fierce tempests may
blacken the scene,

And our masts by the board may be gone.”

RUSKIN.

MANON having completed her eighteenth year, took the small-pox, her parents having unfortunately